

LINCOLN CITY/LANCASTER COUNTY PLANNING STAFF REPORT

for July 9, 2003 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

P.A.S.: Comprehensive Plan Conformity #03006
Amend FY 2002/03 Capital Improvement Budget to include Highway 2 Connector Trail Project

PROPOSAL: The Director of the Parks and Recreations Department has requested a review of the Highway 2 Connector Trail project for conformance with the Comprehensive Plan for the purpose of amending the Fiscal Year (FY) 2002/03 Capital Improvement Budget.

CONCLUSION: The Highway 2 Connector Trail project conforms to the goals of the Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan identifies a number of implementation strategies that support the finding that the Highway 2 Connector Trail project is in conformance with the Comprehensive Plan.

<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u>	In conformance with the Comprehensive Plan.
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GENERAL INFORMATION:

LOCATION: The proposed Highway 2 Connector Trail would be located along the north side of Highway 2, between South 56th Street and Old Cheney Road (See attached maps).

PURPOSE: The Planning Commission is required to review the proposed project for conformity with the Comprehensive Plan.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SPECIFICATIONS: The following goals, principles and strategies of the Comprehensive Plan are addressed by the Highway 2 Connector Trail project.

“Physical linkages (i.e., sidewalks, trails, roads) should be utilized to directly connect Commerce Centers with adjacent development, although undesirable traffic impacts on adjacent residential areas should be avoided or minimized.” (page F 41)

“Commercial locations should be easily accessible by all modes of transportation including pedestrian, bicycle, transit and automobiles. Centers should be especially accessible to pedestrians and bicycles with multiple safe and convenient access points.” (page F 42)

“Activity Corridors and Centers - These areas tend to be located along arterials, particularly where two major arterials might intersect. These locations often have strip commercial or “L” shaped neighborhood shopping centers. Directness and safety for pedestrians going to, from, and within these corridors and centers should be stressed.” (page 91)

“Other Areas - All areas of the community should have safe, secure, and reasonably direct pedestrian connections. Activities of daily living should be available within walking distance. Neighborhoods should include homes, stores, workplaces, schools, and places to recreate. Interconnecting streets, trails, and sidewalks should be designed to encourage walking and bicycling, reduce the number and length of automobile trips, and conserve energy.” (page 91)

On page F 91 of the Plan, the “Pedestrian Activity Centers Plan” map identifies the Edgewood Shopping Center as an activity center where pedestrian facilities are focused within a 1/4 mile walking radius.

“Target pedestrian improvements in areas shown on the Pedestrian Activity Centers Plan. Refine map as necessary. Use pedestrian standards.” (page F 92)

“Extend the bicycle and trails system into the new neighborhoods as the city grows. Connections should be made to schools, parks, and other activity areas.” (page F 94)

“Identify critical segments offering greater system continuity and connections for major activity centers, schools and the University of Nebraska. Undertake projects to complete identified gaps in the system.” (page F 94)

“Bicycle and trails standards should identify key destinations, and plan for bicycle and trails facilities to and from these locations. Key destinations include schools, parks, trails, and activity centers.” (Page F 95)

On page F 95 of the Plan, the “Trail & Bicycles Facilities Plan” map identifies the Highway 2 Connector Trail as a future trail segment.

ANALYSIS:

1. The 2025 Comprehensive Plan identifies a future trail segment in the location of the Highway 2 Connector Trail project. The development of the Highway 2 Connector Trail accomplishes several policies of the 2025 Comprehensive Plan. These include; 1) improving non-vehicular access to Commerce Centers, 2) extension of trails into neighborhoods, and 3) completing critical trail segments that enhances continuity of the City’s trail system.
2. The Parks and Recreation Department indicates that the trail will provide a connection between the Highway 2 Trail that runs from 17th to 56th Street and the Old Cheney Trail between Highway 2 and 70th Street. The trail will be .23 miles in length and provide one separate connection to the Edgewood Shopping Center. Financial assistance from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission for Recreation Trails Program (RTP) funds has been approved. No City of Lincoln funds are requested for this project. A breakdown of the funds is provided below:

\$141,990, Other Funds (RTP grant fund award)

\$149,846, Other Funds (Donation - Trail Easements)

Project Cost \$291,836

3. The Director of Parks and Recreation has requested this grant award be appropriated in the City's approved F.Y. 2002/03 Capital Budget. According to the City Charter, the City Council shall not appropriate any money in any budget for any capital improvement project unless and until the conformity or non-conformity of that project has been reported on by the Planning Department by a special report or in connection with the capital improvement programming process. This report provides this review and finding of Plan conformity.
4. A finding of conformity with the Comprehensive Plan will permit the Parks and Recreation Department to secure and receive the grant funds that have been previously awarded and allow the project to be constructed.

Prepared by:

Duncan L. Ross, AICP
Planner

DATE: June 27, 2003

APPLICANT: Lynn Johnson, Director
Parks and Recreation Department
2740 A Street
Lincoln, NE 68502
Phone: 441-7847

CONTACT: Terry Genrich
Parks and Recreation Department
2740 A Street
Lincoln, NE 68502
Phone: 441-7939



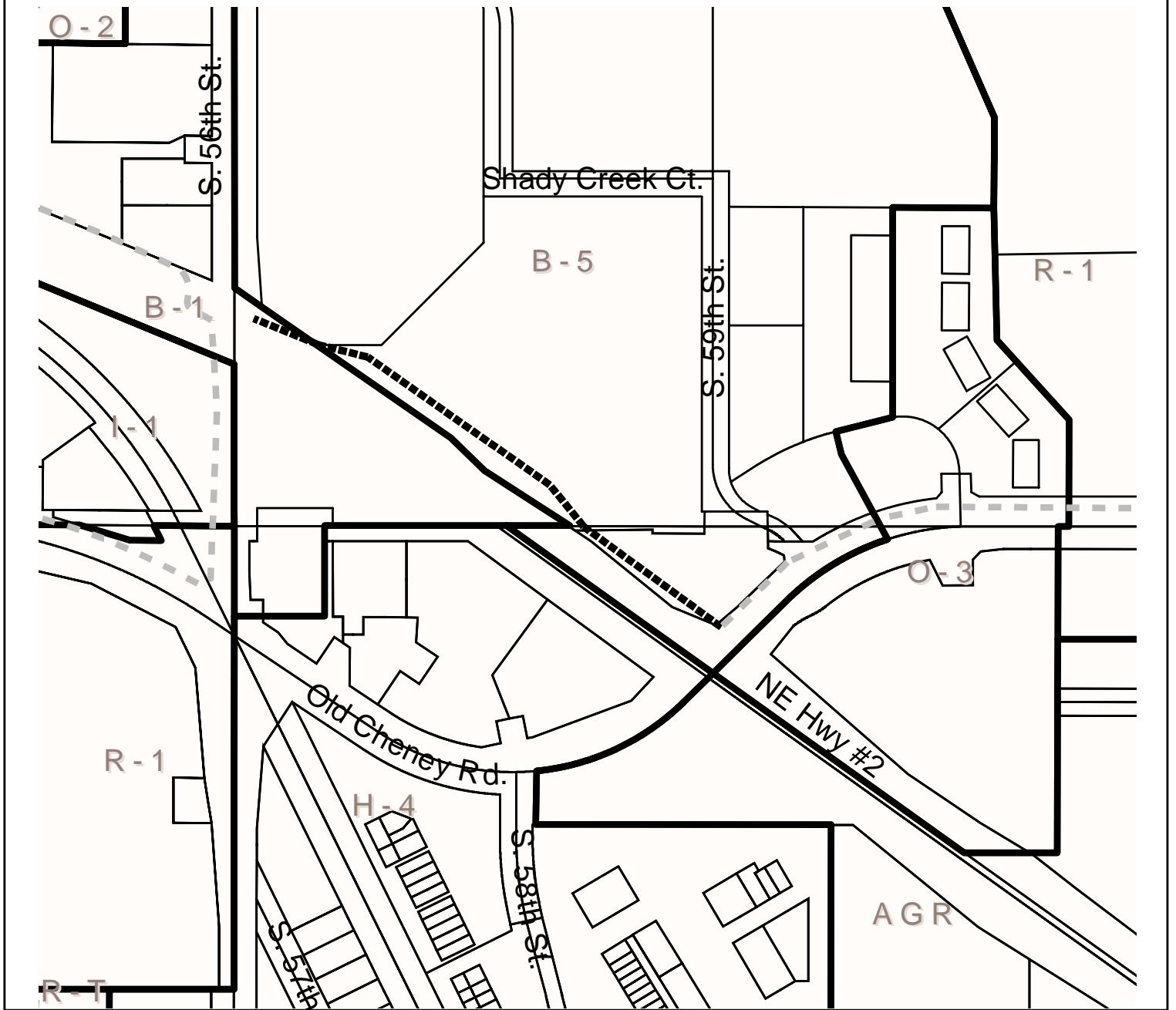
Comp. Plan Conformance #03006 S. 56th & Hwy #2

Trails

- Proposed
- Existing



Lincoln City - Lancaster County Planning Dept.
2002 aerial

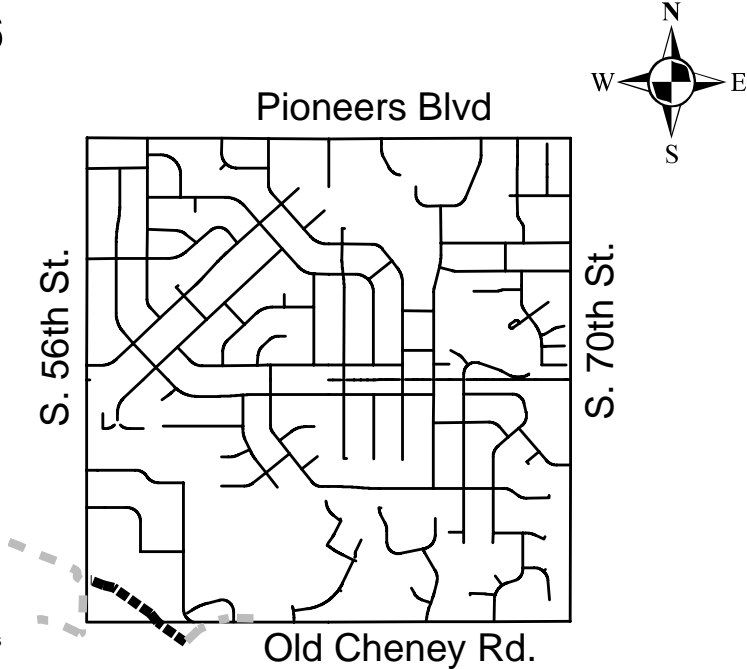
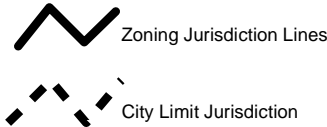
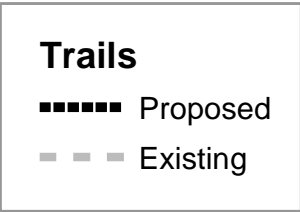


Comp. Plan Conformance #03006 **S. 56th & Hwy #2**

Zoning:

- R-1 to R-8 Residential District
- AG Agricultural District
- AGR Agricultural Residential District
- R-C Residential Conservation District
- O-1 Office District
- O-2 Suburban Office District
- O-3 Office Park District
- R-T Residential Transition District
- B-1 Local Business District
- B-2 Planned Neighborhood Business District
- B-3 Commercial District
- B-4 Lincoln Center Business District
- B-5 Planned Regional Business District
- H-1 Interstate Commercial District
- H-2 Highway Business District
- H-3 Highway Commercial District
- H-4 General Commercial District
- I-1 Industrial District
- I-2 Industrial Park District
- I-3 Employment Center District
- P Public Use District

One Square Mile
 Sec. 9 T9N R7E

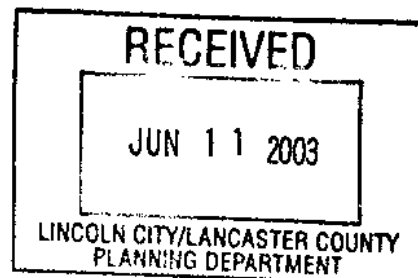


Lincoln



Nebraska's Capital City

June 9, 2003



Marvin Kraut, Director
Planning Department
555 South 10th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Marvin:

In January, 2003, the City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department was awarded a grant from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's Recreation Trails Program (RTP) to construct a new trail along Highway 2 in the vicinity of South 56th Street to Old Cheney Road. The trail is to be constructed on two donated easements. No City of Lincoln funds will be spent.

We are requesting to amend the Parks and Recreation Department's 2002-2003 Capital Improvement Budget to include the Highway 2 Connector Trail Project. The total cost for this project amounts to \$291,836, with funds coming from the Recreation Trails Program and matching funds consisting of the donated easements.

Please forward the Highway 2 Connector Trail request to the Planning Commission for their consideration of the Project's conformity with the Comprehensive Plan. If you have questions, please contact Terry Genrich at 441-7939.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Lynn Johnson, Director
Lincoln Parks & Recreation

jb/LJ, Marvin Kraut

56th / Hwy. 2 / Old Cheney Trail Connection

